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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load

(TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0144

Comment submitted by Mark Perreault, Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, (CFMNP)

Submitter Information

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General Comment

Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park's (CFMNP) primary interest is of course creating a grand public place with a significant national park unit on the 565 acres constituting Fort Monroe, at Old Point Comfort, VA, following the Army's departure in September 2011. Since, however, Fort Monroe enjoys three miles of Chesapeake Bay frontage we see the health and beauty of the Chesapeake Bay as inextricably linked with Fort Monroe's appeal and success.

CFMNP strongly supports efforts to restore the health of the Bay and likewise strongly supports the efforts to establish the Chesapeake Bay watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and effective Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) to achieve the TMDL limits. Fort Monroe lies at the southern end of the Bay and a healthy Bay there requires effective WIPs in all Bay states and DC, including the Commonwealth of Virginia.

We ask EPA to carefully evaluate all WIPs to assure they provide measurable and effective mechanisms to reduce nutrients flowing into the Bay to desired limits within the time frames established. And they should provide detailed alternatives to address contingencies, if expected progress in one or more areas does not occur. These measures should be particularly strong and amendable in the cases of where the greatest problems are being observed, such as non-point sources such as storm water from suburban sprawl and pollutants from agriculture. Effective deadlines with real consequences for failing to meet them are also necessary.